

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2002/01/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100020064-6

CHANNELS

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CIA/WHSS	
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SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1		4		7		10	
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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCHANIS,
STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER FOR MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

25X1A

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 4

DATE: 26 FEB 74

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA: THE NEW DIALOGUE BEGINS

REF

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE RETURNED HOME FROM LAST WEEK'S MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN MEXICO CITY WITH MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT WHAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. A PRELIMINARY READING SUGGESTS THAT MOST OF THE 24 LATIN AND CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS THAT ATTENDED REGARD THE CONFERENCE AS A PROMISING STARTING POINT FOR A HEALTHY NEW DIALOGUE WITH THE US. THEY GENERALLY LOOK FORWARD TO RESUMING THE DIALOGUE IN ATLANTA IN MID-APRIL JUST PRIOR TO THE MEETING THERE OF THE FOURTH OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

ALTHOUGH THEIR COMMENTS TO DATE ABOUT THE MEETING'S CONCRETE

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RESULTS HAVE BEEN UNDERSTANDABLY GUARDED. MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE SPOKEN UP SINCE THE MEETING HAVE BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ITS STYLE. THEY GENERALLY HAVE ECHOED THE SATISFACTION SHOWN BY MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA IN HIS SPEECH CLOSING THE CONFERENCE WHEN HE MENTIONED THE FEELING THAT "HERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE, WE HAVE MET ON A PLANE OF ABSOLUTE EQUALITY."

SOME OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED HAVE ALSO SPOKEN PROUDLY OF THE FACT THAT THE LATINS THEMSELVES WERE ABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SUCH A MEETING WITH THE US TO ATTAIN AND PRESERVE A HIGH DEGREE OF UNITY ON THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. LATIN SOLIDARITY WAS IN FACT IMPRESSIVE, BUT IT DID SHOW STRAINS WHEN ISSUES LIKE CUBA, THE REVISION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, AND THE WORDING OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE AROSE FOR DISCUSSION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE FORMAL SESSIONS. IT WAS ONLY WITH CONSIDERABLE PULLING AND HAULING THAT THE DELEGATES WERE ABLE TO AGREE ON ONE LATIN SPOKESMAN TO RESPOND ON THE NAME OF ALL TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S COMMENTS ON EACH AGENDA ITEM.

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THE TWO ISSUES THAT PRODUCED THE SHARPEST CLEAVAGE BETWEEN SOME OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN DELEGATES ON THE ONE HAND AND THE US ON THE OTHER WERE THE US SUGGESTION THAT A NEW "HEMISPHERIC COMMUNITY" BE FORMED AND THE PROBLEM, NOT FORMALLY INSCRIBED ON THE AGENDA, OF CUBA. SOME OF THE AREA'S MORE NATIONALISTIC GOVERNMENTS VEHEMENTLY REJECTED THE "COMMUNITY" FORMULATION BECAUSE THEY SAW IT AS POSSIBLE NEW VEHICLE FOR WHAT THEY REGARD AS US DOMINATION. A FEW DELEGATES, NOTABLY THOSE OF JAMAICA, GUYANA, AND PERU, SOUGHT TO FORCE THE GROUP TO DISCUSS THE EXCLUSION OF CUBA FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, BUT THEY RECEIVED LITTLE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT. NEITHER PROBLEM LOOMED SO LARGE AS TO DOMINATE THE CONFERENCE ITSELF, ALTHOUGH CUBAN AND SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY TRUMPETED BOTH ISSUES AND MADE IT APPEAR THAT WAY.

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CUBA ITSELF HAS YET TO REACT DIRECTLY TO THE DISCUSSIONS AT TLATELOLCO. PRESA LATINA, THE CUBAN WIRE SERVICE, SENT CONSIDERABLE CAUSTIC COMMENTARY FROM MEXICO TO HAVANA DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETINGS. THE MAIN THEME OF ITS REPORTAGE WAS PERHAPS BEST CONVEYED IN ITS ATTRIBUTION TO A CENTRAL AMERICA DELEGATE OF THE REMARK THAT THE US HAD "OFFERED US, UNDER NEW TITLES, THE SAME OLD STATE DEPARTMENT CLICHES." TASS ALSO PLAYED UP THE SAME REMARK BAND WAS GENERALLY ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS CRITICAL THAN THE CUBAN WIRE SERVICE.

WITH THE MEXICO MEETING NOW OVER, LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS WILL BEGIN FOCUSING ON HOW BEST TO REFINED THEIR ARGUMENTS AND SEEK FURTHER US ACTIONS IN THEIR FAVOR AT THE APRIL MEETINGS IN ATLANTA, WHERE MOST OF THE ISSUES RAISED IN MEXICO WILL AGAIN COME UP. IN THE INTERIM THEY WILL SPEAK LOUDLY, MOSTLY FOR HOME CONSUMPTION, ABOUT THE NEED FOR WASHINGTON TO DO MORE FOR THEM, BUT PRIVATELY MOST WILL REMAIN GUARDEDLY HOPEFUL THAT THE NEW IMPETUS THEY SEE AS HAVING BEEN GIVEN TO US-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS CAN BE NURTURED AND SUSTAINED.

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26 FEB 74
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